

Message Text

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FOR HODDING CARTER

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: EVENING PRESS SUMMARY, JUNE 16, 1978

HEREWITH ONLY PRESS REACTION SO FAR TO SECRETARY VANCE'S
MEETING WITH DR. OWEN. BELOW IS FULL TEXT OF ASSOCIATED
PRESS BYLINER -- ARTHUR L. GAVSHON -- DATELINED LONDON,
1805 EDT.

BEGIN TEXT: U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS R. VANCE AND
FOREIGN SECRETARY DAVID OWEN AGREED TODAY THAT PROSPECTS ARE
SLOWLY IMPROVING FOR TALKS AMONG ALL PARTIES INVOLVED IN THE
RHODESIAN CONFLICT.

"THE CONSENSUS AT THE MEETING WAS THAT THE TIME IS NOT YET
RIPE FOR THE U.S. AND BRITISH GOVERNMENTS TO PUSH TOO HARD
FOR THE CONVENING OF ALL-PARTY TALKS BRINGING PRIME MINISTER
IAN SMITH'S GOVERNMENT TOGETHER WITH THE LEADERS OF THE
PATRIOTIC FRONT GUERRILLAS," SAID A PARTICIPANT IN THE
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MEETING WHO DECLINED TO BE IDENTIFIED. "BUT THERE WAS A
SHARED VIEW THAT THE TIME FOR SUCH A DEVELOPMENT IS RIPEN-
ING."

SMITH SIGNED AN AGREEMENT IN MARCH WITH THREE LOCAL BLACK
LEADERS SETTING UP A TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT TO RUN THE

COUNTRY UNTIL ONE-MAN ONE-VOTE ELECTIONS LEADING TO BLACK MAJORITY RULE CAN BE ORGANIZED. THE ELECTIONS HAVE BEEN PROMISED BY THE END OF THE YEAR.

THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN OPPOSE THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT BECAUSE IT EXCLUDES THE GUERRILLAS. VANCE AND OWEN HAVE BEEN PUSHING ANOTHER PLAN CALLING FOR PARTICIPATION OF ALL PARTIES CONCERNED.

THE TWO ALSO DISCUSSED THE CHANGING SITUATIONS IN NAMIBIA, THE NATIONALIST NAME FOR SOUTH-WEST AFRICA, ZAIRE AND CYPRUS.

THE SOURCES SAID A NUMBER OF FACTORS WERE CITED DURING THE MEETING TO SUPPORT OF THE VIEW THAT EVENTS ARE MOVING TOWARD ALL-PARTY TALKS IN RHODESIA. THEY INCLUDED:

--SIGNS THAT THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT OF WHITES AND MODERATE BLACKS IS UNDER STRAIN AND PROBABLY WILL NOT LAST. AS THAT PROCESS GOES ON ITS MEMBERS WILL BEGIN SEEKING ALTERNATIVE ALIGNMENTS.

--SIGNS THAT THE REV. NDABANINGI SITHOLE, A MEMBER OF THE GOVERNMENT'S EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, AND JOSHUA NKOMO, CO-LEADER WITH ROBERT MUGABE OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, ARE BEGINNING TO LOOK TOWARD EACH OTHER IF THEY ARE NOT UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTUALLY IN CONTACT.

--SIGNS THAT BISHOP ABEL MUZOREWA, ALSO AN EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBER, AND MUGABE COULD SHARE CERTAIN INTERESTS IF THE SMITH SETTLEMENT BEGINS DISINTEGRATING.

THE PRECISE NATURE OF THOSE SIGNS WAS NOT DISCLOSED. SPECIAL U.S. AND BRITISH ENVOYS, AMBASSADOR TO ZAMBIA STEPHEN LOW AND BRITISH UNDERSECRETARY FOR AFRICA JOHN GRAHAM, ARE IN MAPUTO, MOZAMBIQUE, NOW AFTER A SERIES OF LOW-PROFILE TALKS WITH SOME OF THE PARTIES.

LOW AND GRAHAM HAVE BEEN WORKING TO CREATE, AS OWEN PUT IT TO REPORTERS THURSDAY, A "CLIMATE OF NEGOTIATION AND COMPROMISE AND UNDERSTANDING." HE SAID THERE IS A NEED FOR ALL TO COME TOGETHER FOR DIRECT TALKS." THE ESSENCE OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN WAS THAT THE PARTIES CAME TOGETHER FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT, A CEASE-FIRE AND A READINESS TO ACCEPT THE RESULTS OF FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS."

OWEN SAID PROGRESS MAY BE POSSIBLE IN JULY OR AUGUST

UNLESS THERE IS SOME "MASSIVE CHANGE IN THE MILITARY
SITUATION" THAT HE DID NOT DEFINE. END TEXT.
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